THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have extended to the families of the 54 missing defence personnel believed to be in Pak custody liberalised family pension, family gratuity and education allowance for children.

Indo-Vietnam Economic Cooperation

6178. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was agreed during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam that there was need to upgrade economic linkage between the two countries;

(b) if so, what are the areas which have been identified in order to enlarge economic cooperation;

(c) on what grounds these areas were selected; and

(d) what has been done to follow up this matter since September, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Areas identified for cooperation include sugarcane cultivation and proces sing, cultivation of cotton, diary farming, rubber plantation and manufacture, tea plantation and processing, vegetable oil extraction, leather processing and power.

(c) These areas were identified on the basis of the mutual interests of both the countries.

(d) A Joint Working Group has been set up by India and Vietnam to meet regularly and to have detailed discussions on areas of cooperation. It held its first meeting in January, 1995, A Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of India and Vietnam has already been signed on 18th April, 1995 for Cooperation in the Mining sector. An Indian delegation led by Chiarman of the Central Electricity Authority of India visited Vietnam earlier this year and held discussions with Vietnamese authorities for setting up a power plant in Vietnam.

Bilateral Relations Between India and Indonesia

6179. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) What are the details of efforts made at the official level to expand bilateral interaction in diverse fields between India and Indonesia;

(b) what action has been taken to follow up the efforts made; and

(c) what has been the outcome of this follow up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As part of official efforts to expand bilateral cooperation, discussions were held during the visits of President Soeharto to India in December, 1993 and March, 1994 in connection with G-15 Summit. Recently Commerce Secretary led an Indian delegation to Indonesia to discuss bilateral trade and economic issues.

(b) For detailed discussions and follow-up action in various areas experts and business delegations have been visiting Indonesia from time to time. The India-Indonesia Joint Business Council is also active in promoting economic relations between the two countries.

(c) Trade has been steadily increasing in the last five years, the trade balance being in India's favour. The number of joint ventures in Indonesia is increasing and setting up of two projects with Indonesian investment in India is under consideration.